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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~)

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SUBJECT Proposed Extension and Repair of
German Baltic Ports

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- On 13 May 1948, General Kvashnin, head of the Transport Department of SMA Karlshorst, was visited by a Soviet official who had arrived the day before by plane from Moscow. This official, whose name could not be ascertained, instructed General Kvashnin to start work immediately on the repair and extension of the following Baltic ports: Wismar, Stralsund, Rostock, Warnemünde, Greifswald, and Sassnitz. General Kvashnin thereupon instructed his deputy for ports and waterways, Frolop (Comment: Successor to Yeftokimov), to get in touch with Wollweber, head of the Main Administration for Transport, as soon as he had prepared the plans for the necessary construction.
- Within two days, Frolop prepared a very skimpy set of plans for the ports in question and then showed these to Wollweber. The latter, who is by no means a technician, was unable to give an opinion to Frolop and asked for time to consult with his experts. Wollweber, in turn, showed the plans to Erich Lohmeyer, who is in charge of the waterways branch of Wollweber's department.
- After studying them, Lohmeyer saw that the plans were quite inadequate and that much of the information given in them was incorrect. He was subsequently asked by Frolop to assist him in preparing a proper set of plans for each department concerned. General Kvashnin authorized an initial expenditure of RM 50,000,000 for these undertakings, RM 35,000,000 of which was to be spent on Wismar, which was given priority over the other ports. This expense will naturally be borne by the German economy. The project at Wismar involves the repair and extension of the old Holzhafen. The approaches are to be dredged to accommodate vessels with a draught of up to seven meters.
- Next on the list of priorities is Sassnitz; the reason given for granting preferential treatment to this minor port was that the harbor is usually ice-free for about six to eight weeks longer than the other German Baltic ports.
- When Lohmeyer suggested certain economies in Frolop's original plan, the latter stated that economy was of little importance, as all these projects were being put into effect for strategical reasons on the instructions of General Kvashnin's visitor from Moscow.

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